

I claim:

1. An exhaust system for purifying exhaust gas flowing from an internal combustion engine through the exhaust system in a flow direction, the exhaust system comprising, successively in the flow direction:

a catalytic converter, an oxidation catalytic converter, and a particulate trap for collecting particulates contained in the exhaust gas.

2. The exhaust system according to claim 1, wherein the internal combustion engine is an automobile diesel engine.

3. The exhaust system according to claim 1, wherein said catalytic converter converts carbon monoxides and hydrocarbons contained in the exhaust gas, and said oxidation catalytic converter converts nitrogen monoxide contained in the exhaust gas.

4. The exhaust system according to claim 1, which further comprises a turbocharger, said catalytic converter disposed upstream of said turbocharger, and said oxidation catalytic converter disposed downstream of said turbocharger, in the flow direction.

5. The exhaust system according to claim 1, wherein said catalytic converter is disposed close to the internal combustion engine.
6. The exhaust system according to claim 1, wherein said catalytic converter is disposed in an exhaust manifold directly connected to the internal combustion engine.
7. The exhaust system according to claim 1, wherein said oxidation catalytic converter has at least two zones including a zone disposed furthest away from the internal combustion engine and at least one remaining zone, and said zone disposed furthest away from the internal combustion engine has a higher specific heat capacity than said at least one remaining zone.
8. The exhaust system according to claim 1, wherein said particulate trap is disposed directly downstream of said oxidation catalytic converter, in the flow direction.
9. The exhaust system according to claim 8, wherein said particulate trap is disposed at a distance of less than 50 mm from said oxidation catalytic converter.
10. The exhaust system according to claim 8, wherein said particulate trap is disposed at a distance of less than 20 mm from said oxidation catalytic converter.

11. The exhaust system according to claim 8, wherein said oxidation catalytic converter and said particulate trap are disposed in a common housing.

12. The exhaust system according to claim 11, wherein said oxidation catalytic converter is integrated in said particulate trap.

13. The exhaust system according to claim 12, wherein said particulate trap has a catalytically active coating.

14. The exhaust system according to claim 1, wherein the internal combustion engine has a volumetric capacity, and said particulate trap has a total volume of less than 75% of the volumetric capacity of the internal combustion engine.

15. The exhaust system according to claim 1, wherein the internal combustion engine has a volumetric capacity, and said particulate trap has a total volume of less than 50% of the volumetric capacity of the internal combustion engine.

16. The exhaust system according to claim 1, wherein the internal combustion engine has a volumetric capacity, and said particulate trap has a total volume of less than 25% of the volumetric capacity of the internal combustion engine.

17. The exhaust system according to claim 1, wherein said particulate trap has freely accessible passages and turbulence points and calming points disposed in said passages.

18. The exhaust system according to claim 1, wherein said particulate trap has freely accessible passages and diverter devices disposed in said passages.

19. The exhaust system according to claim 1, wherein said oxidation catalytic converter has a catalytic converter volume, and said catalytic converter has a converter volume of at most half of said catalytic converter volume of said oxidation catalytic converter.

20. The exhaust system according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said catalytic converter, oxidation catalytic converter and particulate trap has a honeycomb structure formed of at least partially structured metal foils defining passages through which exhaust gas can flow.